

# CALIFORNIANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Californians. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in California. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in California.*

## **INCOME: CALIFORNIANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in California was \$52,088.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in California was \$51,312, a drop of 1.5 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN CALIFORNIA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, California had 6,189,000 adults without insurance (18 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, California had 6,961,000 adults without insurance (19.4 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- California had 1,223,475 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN CALIFORNIA**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in California was \$9,592.<sup>6</sup> In 2005, it was \$13,356, a 39 percent increase.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in California was \$24,993.<sup>8</sup> In 2005, it was \$30,186, a 21 percent increase.<sup>9</sup>
- Number of Californians affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 475,242.<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Californians affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 330,492.<sup>11</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in California was \$1.433 a gallon.<sup>12</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in California is \$2.765 a gallon.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in California was \$2,135.<sup>14</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in California is \$4,120, \$1,985 (93 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>15</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: CALIFORNIANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in California – 4, 411,970<sup>16</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in California – \$879<sup>17</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: CALIFORNIANS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Californians killed in Iraq – 280<sup>18</sup>
- Number of Californians wounded in Iraq – 2,219<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Californians killed in Afghanistan – 26<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Californians wounded in Afghanistan – 71<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Veterans in California – 2,310,968<sup>22</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING CALIFORNIA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 5,651 estates in California paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>23</sup>
- Only 880 estates in California will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>24</sup>

## **CRIME: Funding for Community Policing Disappearing**

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$75,469,519<sup>25</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$14,836,376<sup>26</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST CALIFORNIANS**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Californians.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of California residents each received an average of \$3,270 in tax cuts, while middle class California residents received only \$382.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Georgia residents will receive an average of \$53,614 in tax cuts, while middle class California residents will only receive \$677.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of California residents will each receive an average of \$1009,678 in tax cuts, while middle class California residents will only receive \$782.<sup>29</sup>

## **The richest Californians receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Californians received 7.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 17.1 percent of the tax cut.<sup>30</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Californians will get 33 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.1 percent of the tax cut.<sup>31</sup>
- And, in 2010, the richest Californians will get 56.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 7.8 percent of the tax cut.<sup>32</sup>

## **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Californians.**

- In 2010, the richest Californians will receive an average of \$19,845 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Californians will be getting over 61.7 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>33</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Californians will receive an average of \$44 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 2.7 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>34</sup>

## **SOURCES**

- 1: US Census Bureau
- 2: US Census Bureau
- 3: US Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage: 2001.  
[<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html>]
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- 5: Congressional Research Service, SCHIP: A Brief Overview, 9/21/06.
- 6: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 7: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 8: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 9: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 10: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 11: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 12: Federal Highway Administration [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/mmfr/jan01/mfr50101.htm]
- 13: *Fuel Gauge Report*, 9/25/06
- 14: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 15: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
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- 22: House Democratic Leader. [http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/NDResources/numvets.doc]
- 23: Center for Budget Priorities, Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State, 8/4/06. [http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm]

24: United for a Fair Economy [[www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html](http://www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html)]. This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.

25: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.

26: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.

27: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

28: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

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29: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

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30: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

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